

Southern Negro's Struggle for Integration

Georgia City, Albany, Becomes Decisive Battleground

By DON MCKEE
Of the Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga.—The struggle of the southern Negro for integration into a white society through nonviolent protest has made Albany a decisive battle ground.

The test has come in a Deep South city which is steeped in a tradition of segregation held over from the days when Negro slaves were sold from an auction block downtown.

But despite the traditions, Albany's 58,000 population (40 per cent Negro) is sprinkled liberally with moderate white people. A sizeable segment of the population migrated from the North; still others have their ancestral roots above the Mason-Dixon line.

Albany was founded in 1836 by a Yankee from Connecticut, Nelson Tift. It is named for Albany, N.Y., because it is situated at the head of a river, in this instance the Flint.

Among the city officials there are moderates, the chief of whom is Mayor Asa D. Kel-

ley Jr. who tried last December to persuade the seven-member city commission toward a conciliatory course.

Interestingly perhaps, racial prejudice hasn't affected Jewish business—Men who have followed the first Jewish merchants of ante bellum days.

Another factor strongly in favor of the major integration thrust is a history of unusual racial harmony.

A center for pecan and peanut trade, Albany has a predominantly light-industry economy which is bolstered considerably by Turner Air Force Base, with about 8,000 person-

nel, and the U.S. Marine Corps supply center, largest in the southeast with more than 2,000 civilian employees.

There has been a tangible air of moderation in racial matters in some fields.

Negroes register to vote freely, as compared to the difficulty they encounter in surrounding counties. In the segregated system, since World War II every white school facility has been matched by a Negro facility.

And since mass racial demonstrations began, there have been only isolated instances of minor violence—no major rioting as has occurred in some other

southern cities. One of the biggest factors involved in Albany's being chosen as a pilot city was the determination of the Albany Movement, headed by Dr. W. G. Anderson, an osteopath.

Anderson's group began three years ago seeking first to at least crack racial walls by negotiating with city officials. All efforts have failed.

When Negro leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. appeared on the scene briefly in December and then left town, white segregationists hailed his departure as signalling the demise of the Albany Movement.

But this was not the case. Negroes staged sit-ins at lunch counters, put up occasional picket lines to emphasize a boycott of merchants and forced the local transit system into bankruptcy by refusing to ride segregated buses.

King returned two weeks ago and started serving a 45-day jail term for leading a mass march in December. King was released on bond advanced by an unidentified Negro three days later, and white officials heaved a sigh of relief.

But King continued to support the campaign and again was arrested and jailed last Fri-

day after a group of Negroes held a "prayer vigil" in front of city hall.

The campaign really got rolling in December, when demonstrations were touched off by the arrest of 11 "freedom riders" at a train terminal. Since then Negroes have been pressing for a biracial committee, desegregation of transportation facilities—including the bus line should it resume operations, and more job opportunities for members of their race.

Negro leaders have indicated they hope to wage an all-out, long-range and continuing battle until they attain their goals.

Two Climbers Die on Mountain

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—Two Britons have been killed while attempting to conquer 25,762-foot-high Khinang Chis Mountain in the Karakoram Ranges of the Himalayas, according to a message received by Pakistan army authorities Saturday.

They were members of the joint British-Pakistan Karakoram expedition. They died in a blizzard on July 18, according to the message.

One of the dead, Maj. James E. Mills, 35, of the Royal Army Service Corps, was one of Britain's most experienced mountaineers. The other man was identified as Capt. M. F. M. Jones, 28, of the Royal Fusiliers.

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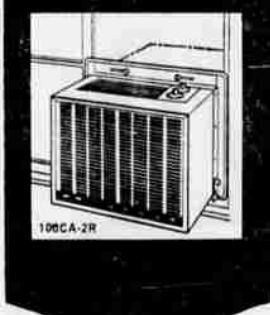
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